

OPTN/UNOS Operations and Safety Committee
Meeting Summary
September 1, 2016
Conference Call

David Marshman, Chair
Dr. Michael Marvin, Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on September 1, 2016 are summarized below. All committee meeting summaries are available at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>.

Committee Projects

1. Infectious Disease Verification

The Committee's proposal for infectious disease verification (IDV) is active in the current public comment cycle (August 15, 2016 – October 15, 2016). The IDV work group will continue to meet and discuss public comments received. No public comments have been posted yet, however, the cycle is still in the early stages. The Committee will discuss comments and next steps at the October in-person meeting.

Review of Public Comment Proposals

2. Redesigning Liver Distribution (Liver & Intestine Committee)

The Operations and Safety Committee heard the liver redistricting proposal presented by Dr. Sophoclis Alexopoulos. The Committee has the following comments regarding this proposal:

- Concerns that liver transports will increase by 14%. Transportation needs can be difficult to meet under current allocation models. In some parts of the country, such as the Pacific Northwest and northern Great Lakes, additional travel will be very challenging. In some areas, there are not enough adequate vendors and timely public transportation options.
- The supply and demand for charter flights will be a potential issue. Costs could go up significantly if there are not enough carriers/pilots to fly due to markedly increased demand without a ready supply. Further modifications may need to be made in the event of inclement weather. One example is that local backup needs to be addressed thoroughly in the event that the organ cannot fly on short notice due to a weather event. It was suggested that modeling be performed to assess these questions surrounding increased travel needs and expenses.
- Additional travel not only raises issues of cost increases but there are also safety concerns when more transplant teams will be traveling by air.
- Concerns that there will be more simultaneous offers for a single candidate. This current concern, as experienced under Share 35, will be increased if this proposal passes. Additional multiple offers for one patient will make the process even more complex, add challenges to making choices, and potentially worsen OR timing.
- Facilitated placement was suggested as a process to consider to deal with organ turn downs that do not occur until the OR.

3. Modifications to Informed Consent Requirements for Potential Living Donors (Living Donor Committee)

The Operations and Safety Committee heard the living donor informed consent modifications proposal presented by Dr. Randolph Schaffer. The Committee commented that the rationale behind sharing follow up rates was discussed since donors only can be requested to return for follow up.

Other Significant Items

4. Modifications to VCA Shipping Labels

The Committee received a presentation about proposed modifications to the VCA shipping labels. The proposed modifications would change the options for VCA types that would be displayed on the labels to be more consistent with the new policy definition of VCA body parts approved in June 2016 by the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors. The Committee did not have any questions and agreed with the approved modifications.

5. Patient Safety Advisory Committee Patient Safety Video Series

Committee members were shown how to access the latest patient safety video "Communication and Documentation of Organ Allocation Deviations" loaded on August 23, 2016 as part of the Effective Communication Can Save Lives series. This video is in the new learning management system (LMS) called UNOS Connect. Members were shown how to access UNOS Connect and the latest video. As of today, there were 66 registrations and 39 registrants completed the video and passed the assessment. Eight had failed. It was clarified though that if a person fails and then registers again but passes then the registration will show up two times. There are 58 unique individuals who have registered for the course. Members were urged to join the Patient Safety Advisory Group to become active with developing these videos.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 6, 2016 (Conference call)
- October 25, 2016 (In-person meeting, Chicago, IL)